

System Configuration Team (SCT)

**Meeting Notes
August 22, 2002**

Greetings and Introductions.

The August 22, 2002 meeting of the System Configuration Team was held at the National Marine Fisheries Service offices in Portland, Oregon. The meeting was chaired by Bill Hevlin of NMFS and facilitated by Richard Forester. The agenda and a list of attendees for the meeting are attached as Enclosures A and B. Hevlin read a round of introductions, a review of the agenda and the notes from the July 31 SCT meeting.

The following is a distillation (not a verbatim transcript) of items discussed at the meeting, together with actions taken on those items. Please note that some enclosures referenced may be too lengthy to routinely include with the meeting notes; copies of all enclosures referred to in the minutes are available upon request from Kathy Ceballos of NMFS at 503/230-5420.

2. Update on FY'02 CRFM Funding.

As FY'02 is playing out, we have virtually eliminated our funding shortfalls, John Kranda reported. The reasons for that are both good and bad, he said; we had our first meeting with the corner collector contractor, who we had hoped would get started this year. Now, however, he's not planning to get started until next year. That meant our need for the corner collector went down from \$3 million to \$1 million in FY'02, he said; we're keeping our fingers crossed that we're able to stay at the \$30 million level for the corner collector project in FY'03. As far as funding needs for the rest of FY'02, we're pretty well set with respect to funds on hand, Kranda said, although we're still evaluating our tag purchase needs for the 2003 testing season. PIT tags for the Upper Columbia steelhead have been funded? Hevlin asked. Yes, Mike Mason replied.

3. FY'03 CRFM Program Prioritization.

Hevlin distributed Enclosure C, a list of the FY'03 line-items which require further discussion on priority level, and of line-items which require attention to costs (scrubbing), but whose priority level is OK. Kranda also distributed Enclosure D, the most recent version of the FY'03 CRFM measures worksheet. He noted that he had added a new column to the spreadsheet, "Revised '03 Estimate," reflecting preliminary "scrubbing" results for some line-items; items whose estimate has changed are highlighted in grey. He added that he had rearranged the order of the line-items to reflect the priorities agreed to at the July 31 SCT meeting.

The bottom line is that doing everything we've agreed to as a high CRFM priority in FY'03 will cost about \$93 million, Kranda said; there is still an outside chance that Congress might return to the President's request of \$98 million, but in all likelihood we're looking at an \$87 million appropriation in FY'03. Given 13% savings and slippage, said Kranda, we can probably expect to have about \$72 million to work with in FY'03, initially. The high-high group would take up about \$67 million of that total, he said; the high-medium group takes us to about \$79 million; the third-tier priorities take the total program cost to \$88 million, just over the total anticipated prioritization. Below that are a number of items that are still important, such as the removal of the PSC at B1, Kranda said – that's probably necessary if the study is to proceed as planned.

The group went through the list item by item, with the following results:

- . B2 surface bypass: OK as prioritized.
- . Bonn juvenile fish passage studies: OK as prioritized, will be scrubbed further
- . B2 DSM, monitoring and outfall: OK as prioritized; details still under discussion.
- . B2 FGE: OK as prioritized; cost may increase to up to \$2.5 million, depending on level of effort; FFDRWG is discussing further
- . Bonn flat plate PIT detector: OK as prioritized
- . Ice Harbor AWS: OK as prioritized; hydraulic design issues still under discussion, alternatives to be presented at upcoming FFDRWG conference call next week.
- . Ice Harbor adult PIT detectors: OK as prioritized
- . John Day mitigation evaluation (Ringgold): OK as prioritized
- . John Day ladder jumping and holding: OK as prioritized
- . Lower Granite adult PIT detectors: OK as prioritized; cost estimate reduced from \$300,000 to \$150,000
- . Lower Monumental outfall relocation: OK as prioritized
- . Lower Monumental gas fasttrack: OK as prioritized, cost estimate could come down if contractor meets FY'02 schedule
- . Lower Monumental spillway efficiency/survival studies: OK as prioritized; cost estimate increased from \$1.8 million to \$2.5 million (added hydroacoustics)
- . Lower Monumental barge loading improvements: OK as prioritized, worst-case placeholder amount
- . The Dalles adult channel dewatering: OK as prioritized
- . The Dalles spillway and sluiceway survival study: OK as prioritized; cost estimate increased from \$4 million to \$5 million with turbine and sluiceway survival, \$4.2 million without
- . The Dalles spillway modifications: OK as prioritized
- . Less-intrusive PIT-tag monitoring: OK as prioritized; still some questions about cost and location; need combined SCT/FFDRWG/SRWG meeting to make decision in next month or so.
- . Delayed mortality evaluation: OK as prioritized, needs further scrubbing, Washington and CRITFC would like to see this item scaled back – \$3 million of \$4.8 million cost is for PIT tags alone. To be discussed further at planned SCT/FFDRWG/SRWG meeting
- . Estuary PIT recovery: OK as prioritized, cost reduced from \$1.3 million to \$800,000 with Bonneville agreeing to pay \$500,000.

- . High-flow PIT: OK as prioritized; cost increased from \$200,000 to \$750,000
- . Investigate headburn: OK as prioritized
- . Estuary studies: OK as prioritized, some question of redundancy and timeliness of potential improvements, may need to be elevated for policy discussion
- . B2 fish units intake debris: OK as prioritized, cost estimate reduced from \$2.125 million to \$200,000 -- dredging and complete plans and specs only, with construction in FY'04 (fall 2003)
- . Lower Granite AWS: OK as prioritized
- . McNary extended-length screens: OK as prioritized
- . Ice Harbor flow deflectors (spill/survival studies): OK as prioritized (placeholder amount), survival results from spring study much lower than expected, Walla Walla FFDRWG to discuss further, pos. in conference call with SCT
- . Little Goose extended-length screens: OK as prioritized
- . Lower Granite extended-length screens: OK as prioritized
- . PH1 turbine passage survival: OK as prioritized, finish PH1 report only
- . McNary forebay debris control: OK as prioritized; cost estimate reduced from \$1.2 million to \$200,000 if defer sweeper purchase and continue debris removal until consensus reached on permanent solution
- . Lower Granite surface bypass program: OK as prioritized, needs further scrubbing
- . Bonn adult PIT: OK as prioritized; cost reduced from \$400,000 to \$200,000, with work proceeding at Bonneville only
- . The Dalles sluiceway outfall/emergency AWS: defer work to FY'04, cost reduced from \$1.1 million to \$50,000 placeholder
- . Avian predation: OK as prioritized
- . Bonn adult fallback: cost reduced to zero; defer DDR, continue with adult AFEP.
- . Lower Monumental ESBS evaluation: reduce to zero; no tests required for decision at LoMo
- . The Dalles surface bypass: cost reduced from \$5.6 million to \$3 million with new estimates for forebay hydroacoustics, RT tests with alternative gate openings. Could defer project; may be time to take a step back and evaluate results from several years' testing. SCT to discuss further at September meeting.
- . Multiple bypass evaluation: combine with delayed mortality line-item? Significant difference of SCT opinion; need to look at adult PIT data, study design. Elevate to IT.
- . Little Goose juvenile facility PIT tag improvements:
- . Lower Monumental Adult PIT detectors:
- . Lower Monumental removable spillway weir:
- . McNary adult PIT detectors:
- . PH2 AWS: OK as prioritized, implement if funding available
- . John Day biological studies: OK as prioritized, needs further scrubbing, alternatives under consideration range in cost from \$2.3 million to \$4 million. Implement if funding available; discuss at September meeting
- . McNary gas fasttrack: may be reduced in scope; spill pattern development work is crucial, move up to item 43 on the list, discuss at September meeting
- . McNary spillway efficiency/survival: cost increased from \$1.8 million to \$2.5 million with added hydroacoustics, may be deferred; implement if funding available, discuss at September meeting
- . Adult passage AFEP: OK as prioritized, implement if funding available

- . John Day surface bypass: may be deferred
- . McNary temperature control: relatively low priority, implement if funding available
- . Bonneville implement gas fasttrack: cost reduced from \$890,000 to \$330,000, wrap-up and decision document only, more scrubbing and discussion needed
- . John Day extended-length screens: cost estimate reduced from \$1 million to \$650,000, determine VBS problem, repair and run
- . PH2 turbine passage survival:
- . PH1 DSM, monitoring and outfall: cost estimate reduced from \$335,000 to \$70,000 for smart shutdown
- . Bonneville PH1 FGE: cost estimate reduced from \$900,000 to \$40,000, smart shutdown only
- . Bonneville surface bypass: may or may not need to remove PSC to get a good test next year, if so, cost estimate for removal \$850,000. Further scrubbing needed.

Items 65, 66 and 67 were discussed briefly; it was generally felt that they have fallen off the implementable list for this year, and should be deferred until the out-years. With respect to line-item 68, the lamprey passage studies, the current estimate is \$300,000 to continue the study in FY'03 and \$120,000 for smart shutdown in FY'03. After a brief discussion, the SCT recommended that the lamprey study be moved up to Item 49 on the list, right at the edge of the funding bubble.

The group also briefly discussed Items 77, 78 and 79, agreeing to defer all three to a future fiscal year. Kranda then moved on to the final five line-items of the list, beginning with Item 93, the system surface bypass compendium; the intent of this \$500,000 item is to develop surface bypass direction at several projects. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the scope and cost of this effort need further discussion. It may make sense to wait to develop this compendium until we have a second year of RSW studies under our belt, since that is the most promising surface bypass technology currently under study, Hevlin observed. With respect to line-item 97, funding support for the technical recovery team (RPA 179), Kranda said he has been told he is required to provide funding for the TRT.

The SCT agreed that line-items 94, 95 and 96, the decision documents for Lower Monumental, The Dalles and John Day, respectively, should be placed higher on the priority list, given the amount of money that is slated to be spent on configuration at those projects. It was further agreed that \$50,000 apiece may not be enough to produce adequate decision documents, so more funding may be needed.

It was noted that the SCT's CRFM consensus high-priority list ends after line-item 24, PH2 fish units intake debris; the cumulative cost of the items in this group is currently estimated to be \$66.7 million. If an \$87 million funding level is assumed, funding would be exhausted after line-item 48, adult passage AFEP. Further cost adjustments for some of the line-items will be forthcoming, Kranda said.

4. Next SCT Meeting Date.

The next regular meeting of the System Configuration Team was set for Thursday, September 26. A second September SCT meeting to wrap up the FY'03 prioritization discussion was set for 9 a.m. Thursday, September 19 in Walla Walla. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle, BPA contractor.